

106TH CONGRESS  
1ST SESSION

# S. 204

To amend chapter 5 of title 13, United States Code, to require that any data relating to the incidence of poverty produced or published by the Secretary of Commerce for subnational areas is corrected for differences in the cost of living in those areas.

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## IN THE SENATE OF THE UNITED STATES

JANUARY 19, 1999

Mr. MOYNIHAN (for himself, Mr. JEFFORDS, and Mr. LIEBERMAN) introduced the following bill; which was read twice and referred to the Committee on Governmental Affairs

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## A BILL

To amend chapter 5 of title 13, United States Code, to require that any data relating to the incidence of poverty produced or published by the Secretary of Commerce for subnational areas is corrected for differences in the cost of living in those areas.

1       *Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representa-*  
2       *tives of the United States of America in Congress assembled,*

3       **SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE.**

4       This Act may be cited as the “Poverty Data Correc-  
5       tion Act of 1999”.

1 **SEC. 2. REQUIREMENT.**

2 (a) IN GENERAL.—Chapter 5 of title 13, United  
3 States Code, is amended by adding after subchapter V the  
4 following:

5 “SUBCHAPTER VI—POVERTY DATA

6 **“§ 197. Correction of subnational data relating to**  
7 **poverty**

8 “(a) Any data relating to the incidence of poverty  
9 produced or published by or for the Secretary for sub-  
10 national areas shall be corrected for differences in the cost  
11 of living, and data produced for State and sub-State areas  
12 shall be corrected for differences in the cost of living for  
13 at least all States of the United States.

14 “(b) Data under this section shall be published in  
15 1999 and at least every second year thereafter.

16 **“§ 198. Development of State cost-of-living index and**  
17 **State poverty thresholds**

18 “(a) To correct any data relating to the incidence of  
19 poverty for differences in the cost of living, the Secretary  
20 shall—

21 “(1) develop or cause to be developed a State  
22 cost-of-living index which ranks and assigns an index  
23 value to each State using data on wage, housing,  
24 and other costs relevant to the cost of living; and

25 “(2) multiply the Federal Government’s statis-  
26 tical poverty thresholds by the index value for each

1 State's cost of living to produce State poverty  
 2 thresholds for each State.

3 “(b) The State cost-of-living index and resulting  
 4 State poverty thresholds shall be published before Septem-  
 5 ber 30, 2000, for calendar year 1999 and shall be updated  
 6 annually for each subsequent calendar year.”.

7 (b) CONFORMING AMENDMENT.—The table of sec-  
 8 tions for chapter 5 of title 13, United States Code, is  
 9 amended by adding at the end the following:

“SUBCHAPTER VI—POVERTY DATA

“197. Correction of subnational data relating to poverty.

“198. Development of State cost-of-living index and State poverty thresholds.”.

